



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

OVERNIGHT DELIVERY

FEB 5 2004

(b) (6)

Dear (b) (6):

We are contacting you in reference to an Order on Consent (Order) between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Mountaire Farms of Delaware, Inc. (Mountaire). The Order addresses nitrate contamination in the ground water, and therefore in the drinking water, in and around Mountaire's Millsboro, Delaware facility. As a first step, the Order required Mountaire to provide your residence with bottled water. The next step is for Mountaire to provide your home with a permanent alternate source of drinking water. The options the company should have offered you are either a new well to replace your existing well, or an ion exchange system, acting as point-of-entry treatment. With respect to the point-of-entry system, Mountaire will be responsible for maintaining the system until the nitrate concentration in the groundwater reaches safe drinking water standards.

According to our records, Mountaire is providing bottled water to your residence as a temporary alternate source of drinking water. Documents provided by Mountaire also show that the company has provided you with a copy of the Order and has explained the reasons for the need for an alternate water source, in particular the potential health risks related to consumption of water containing elevated nitrate levels. The company should have fully explained the two alternate water supply choices available to you, as well as the advantages and disadvantages of each one.

It appears that you have not chosen which of these two alternate water systems you would like to have installed at your home. Bottled water **is not** considered by EPA to be a permanent alternate water source. Mountaire was to provide the bottled water only as a short term first step. Further, should you decide not to accept either of the permanent alternate remedies, the Order does not require Mountaire to continue to provide you with bottled water. Your response stating your preference for a new well or an ion exchange treatment system must be sent **within fifteen days of this letter to:**

Jeffrey Smith, REM, Environmental Manager
Mountaire Farms of Delaware, Inc.
P.O. Box 1320
Millsboro, DE 19966
302 934-1100

EPA encourages you to work with Mountaire to reach an agreement on a permanent alternate water supply. To help with that process, EPA would be glad to provide you with more detailed information regarding your options and Mountaire's responsibilities. For assistance, please contact Amy Cohen of EPA's Safe Drinking Water Act Branch at 215-814-3296.

Sincerely,

Karen D. Johnson, Chief
Safe Drinking Water Act Branch,
OCE Water Protection Division

cc: Jeffrey Smith, Mountaire Farms, Inc.





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FEB 5 2004

Bottled
H2O

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1650 Arch Street
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(b) (6)

FEB 5 2004

02/2/2004
stay on
Bottled H₂O

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OVERNIGHT DELIVERY

(b) (6)

2/2/04

FEB 5 2004

ion exchange

Dear (b) (6):

We are contacting you in reference to an Order issued between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Mountaire Farms of Delaware, Inc. (Mountaire). The Order addresses nitrate contamination in the ground water, and therefore in the drinking water, in and around Mountaire's Millsboro, Delaware facility. As a first step, the Order required Mountaire to provide your residence with bottled water. The next step is for Mountaire to provide your home with a permanent alternate source of drinking water. The options the company should have offered you are either a new well to replace your existing well, or an ion exchange system, acting as point-of-entry treatment. With respect to the point-of-entry system, Mountaire will be responsible for maintaining the system until the nitrate concentration in the groundwater reaches safe drinking water standards.

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REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

OVERNIGHT DELIVERY

FEB 5 2004

(b) (6)

Dear (b) (6)

as of 2/18
wants
Bottled H₂O

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